

Committee on Ways and Means

Benefits of the U.S.-Morocco Free Trade Agreement

- The United States and Morocco share a strong and longstanding relationship. Morocco was the first country to recognize the newly sovereign United States in 1777, and the Treaty of Peace and Friendship between the United States and Morocco is the longest unbroken treaty relationship in U.S. history.
- According to USTR, the agreement with Morocco is the best market access package of any U.S. free trade agreement (FTA) signed with a developing country. More than 95% of bilateral trade in industrial products will become duty-free immediately upon entry into force of the Agreement.
- The Farm Bureau strongly supports the Agreement, which covers all agricultural products, because for every \$1 in increased imports from Morocco, U.S. farmers can expect \$10 in increased exports to Morocco. Because Morocco's agreement with the European Union does not include agriculture, the FTA should give American farmers a competitive advantage.
- Morocco will accord substantial market access across its entire services regime, including audiovisual, express delivery, telecommunications, computer and related services, distribution, and construction and engineering.
- The Agreement contains important protections for U.S. investors, including transparent rule-making and an investor-state dispute settlement mechanism.
- The Agreement contains state-of-the-art intellectual property provisions, including commitments in trademarks, copyrights, and patents, as well as tough penalties for piracy and counterfeiting.
- The Agreement follows meets the labor and environment objectives set out by the Congress in the Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) Act, including enforceable commitments by the parties to enforce their own laws. Morocco recently passed a comprehensive new labor law that meets International Labor Organization core labor standards, and the Moroccan Constitution protects the right to strike.